ESA/VN-ESTEC(2016)035
Paris, 18 July 2016
(English only)

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Technical and Quality Management

The European Space Agency is an equal opportunity employer
and encourages applications from women

POST

Optical Engineer in the Optics Section, Mechatronics and Optics Division, Mechanical Engineering Department, Directorate of Technical and Quality Management.

This post is classified in the A2 - A4 grade band on the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

LOCATION

ESTEC, Noordwijk (Netherlands).

DUTIES

The postholder reports to the Head of the Optics Section, which provides functional support to ESA projects and carries out technological research (R&D) in the areas of optical component technology (micro-optics, fibre and passive integrated optics, x-ray optics), optical instrumentation (spectroradiometric imaging instruments in the visible/infrared, interferometry, optical aperture synthesis) and testing (calibration and performance verification, optical benches).

In these technical areas, the main tasks and responsibilities include:

- providing expert technical support and consultancy to ESA projects for the development of optical space instruments throughout all project phases, e.g. for Earth observation and science;
- participating in project reviews and evaluations of industrial procurement proposals;
- analysing the design of optical subsystems to identify critical areas and define de-risking activities;
- analysing optical system performance parameters such as image quality, spectroradiometric budget, polarisation, stray light;
- contributing to the definition of technology development requirements and work plans for ESA's Technology programmes;
- managing industrial R&D contracts for the development of innovative technologies for optical instruments;
- fostering new application areas for multidisciplinary activities, with emphasis on innovative concepts, cutting-edge technologies, system architectures;
- monitoring applicable scientific and technological trends, maintaining state-of-the-art expertise;

- contributing to the dissemination of the results of activities performed and the transfer of knowledge across the Agency.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants for this post should have a Master's degree or equivalent qualification in optical engineering or physics with major emphasis on optics. Solid experience in software tools for optical design and performance analysis is required. Experience in performing straylight analysis is highly desirable.

Candidates should have at least five years' industrial experience in design, manufacturing, testing and calibration of one or more of optical systems: spectrometers, astronomical telescopes, interferometers. Experience of space-based optical systems would be an asset.

Applicants should have good interpersonal and communication skills. They should be able to work effectively, autonomously and cooperatively in a diverse and international team environment, defining and implementing solutions in line with team and individual objectives, as well as project deadlines.

Candidates should also have good analytical, organisational and reporting skills, a proactive attitude to problem-solving and an interest in innovative technologies.

For behavioural competencies expected from ESA staff in general, please refer to the ESA Competency Framework.

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these is required. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is **30 August 2016**.

Applications from external candidates should preferably be made online from the ESA website (www.esa.int/careers). Those unable to apply on-line should submit their CVs to Human Resources, ESTEC, Keplerlaan 1, 2201 AZ Noordwijk ZH, The Netherlands.

ESA staff members wishing to apply should fill in the Internal Application Form and email it to Apply2ESTEC.

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

Please note that applications are only considered from nationals of one of the following States: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Canada.

Priority will first be given to internal candidates and secondly to external candidates from under-represented Member States.

In accordance with the European Space Agency's security procedures and as part of the selection process, successful candidates will be required to undergo basic screening before appointment.